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Date: March 20, 2002

By:

Kay L. Gaviglio

PATENT

Docket No. GC477C1

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4/11/02

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Wang et al.

Serial No. 09/273,957

Filed: March 22, 1999

For: Novel Phenol Oxidizing Enzyme
Enzymes

) Group Art Unit: 1652

) Examiner: M. A. Walicka, Ph.D.

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 15, 2001, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendment and remarks. This response is considered timely. A petition for a one-month extension of time is concurrently filed herewith.

In the Claims

Please delete claims 3, 6 - 7, 15 - 17, 57 and 58 without prejudice.

Please replace the following amended claims with a clean copy of said claims. A marked-up version of the amended claims is appended hereto. Applicants have also included an Appendix with the current status of all claims.

10.(Twice amended) A purified phenol oxidizing enzyme having an apparent molecular weight of about 38 kD as determined by SDS-PAGE and exhibiting an increase in apparent molecular weight after boiling, wherein said purified enzyme is obtained from